

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

~~Sub~~ 1. A notes service for a computer application, comprising:  
a note creation module which captures an electronic note and  
associates it with a context; and

5 a note storage module which stores said captured note and  
associated context for later retrieval.

2. The notes service of claim 1, comprising:  
a note retrieval module which receives a query condition and retrieves  
10 said captured note and associated context if said note meets said query  
condition.

15 3. The notes service of claim 1, comprising:  
a note management module which enables a user to modify a  
captured note.

20 4. The notes service of claim 1, comprising:  
a collaboration function which allows a plurality of collaboration  
session members to synchronously view a graphical user interface of said  
notes service.

25 5. A method for capturing and managing electronic notes in a  
computer based application, comprising:  
capturing a note in a note object; and  
associating a context with said captured note to said note object.

30 6. The method of claim 5, comprising:  
storing said note object and said associated context in persistent  
storage for later retrieval.

7. The method of claim 6, comprising:  
receiving a query condition; and  
retrieving said note object and said associated context if attributes of  
said note object meet said query condition.

8. The method of claim 5, comprising:  
displaying said note captured in said note object.

5 9. The method of claim 8, comprising:  
displaying said context associated with said note object.

10. The method of claim 5, comprising:  
capturing a second note and linking said second captured note to said  
10 captured note in an hierarchical relationship.

11. The method of claim 5, comprising:  
connecting to a collaboration session;  
synchronously displaying a notes service graphical user interface to  
15 all members connected to said collaboration session.

12. The method of claim 11, comprising:  
locking said note to prevent other members of said collaboration  
session from changing said note.

20 13. A computer readable storage medium tangibly embodying  
program instructions implementing a method for capturing and managing  
electronic notes in a computer based application, the method comprising the  
steps of:  
25 capturing a note in a note object; and  
associating a context with said captured note to said note object.

14. The computer readable storage medium of claim 13, the method  
comprising:  
30 storing said note object and said associated context in persistent  
storage for later retrieval.

15. The computer readable storage medium of claim 13, the method  
comprising:

receiving a query condition; and  
retrieving said note object and said associated context if attributes of  
said note object meet said query condition.

5        16. The computer readable storage medium of claim 13, the method  
comprising:

displaying said note captured in said note object.

10       17. The computer readable storage medium of claim 15, the method  
comprising:

displaying said context associated with said note object.

15       18. The computer readable storage medium of claim 13, the method  
comprising:

15       capturing a second note and linking said second captured note to said  
captured note in an hierarchical relationship.

20       19. The computer readable storage medium of claim 13, the method  
comprising:

20       connecting to a collaboration session;  
synchronously displaying a notes service graphical user interface to  
all members connected to said collaboration session.

25       20. The computer readable storage medium of claim 19, the method  
comprising:

locking said note to prevent other members of said collaboration  
session from changing said note.